

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim + 43 wherein the polyolefin polymer comprises polypropylene.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim + 43 wherein the blend comprises from about 15 to about 30 wt.% of fibril forming polymer.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim + 43 wherein the depth to hydraulic diameter ratio of the spinneret ranges from about 6 to about 10.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim + 43 wherein the mixture of polyolefin and fibril forming polymers comprises from about 0 to about 20 wt.% polyolefin compatibilizer selected from group consisting of maleated polypropylene, maleated ethylene/propylene copolymer, maleated styrene/butadiene/styrene copolymer, maleated styrene/ethylene/butadiene/styrene copolymer, maleated ethylene/propylene/diene monomer (EPDM) copolymer and maleated ethylene/propylene-rubber (EPR).

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising drying the polyolefin polymer, fibril forming polymer and compatibilizer to provide a mixture containing less than about 500 ppm moisture.

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim + 43 further comprising drying the polyolefin polymer and fibril forming polymer to provide a mixture containing less than about 500 ppm moisture.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim + 43 further comprising dyeing the fibers with a dispersed dye, a reactive dye or a mixture of both to provide dyed fibers.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the dyeing is conducted at a pressure ranging from about 1 to about 4 bar.

11. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the dyeing is conducted at a pressure ranging from about 1.5 to about 2 bar.

12-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ 44 wherein the polyolefin matrix comprises polypropylene.

20. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ 44 wherein the molten mixture comprises from about 15 to about 30 wt.% of fibril forming polymer.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ 44 wherein the depth to hydraulic diameter ratio of the spinneret ranges from about 6 to about 10.

22. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ 44 further comprising drying the polyolefin polymer, fibril forming polymer and compatibilizer to provide a mixture containing less than about 500 ppm moisture.

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ 44 further comprising dyeing the fibers with an acid dye to provide dyed fibers.

24. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ 44 where the fibril forming polymer has cationic dyeability.

25. (original) The method of Claim 24 further comprising dying the fiber using a mixture of cationic dye and disperse dye.

26. (original) The method of Claim 23 wherein the dyeing is conducted at a pressure ranging from about 1 to about 4 bar.

27. (original) The method of Claim 25 wherein the dyeing is conducted at a pressure ranging from about 1 to about 4 bar.

28-42. (cancelled)

43. (new) A method for selectively controlling the dyeability of fibers made from filaments containing an amount of fibrils on a surface of the filaments:

blending from about 55 to about 95 wt.% polyolefin polymer and from about 5 to about 45 wt.% fibril forming polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide polymers and polyester polymers to provide a mixture of polyolefin and fibril forming polymers;

conducting the mixture to a hot melt extruder to provide a substantially homogenous molten mixture of polyolefin and fibril forming polymers sufficient to

provide filaments comprising substantially discontinuous fibrils of the fibril forming polymer dispersed in a polyolefin matrix;

selecting a spinneret from the group consisting of a spinneret having a depth to hydraulic diameter ratio of less than about 3 to provide fibrils on an exterior surface of the filaments and a spinneret having a depth to hydraulic diameter ratio of greater than 3 to provide filaments substantially devoid of fibrils on the exterior surface of the filaments; and

forcing the molten mixture through the spinneret at a shear rate ranging from about 1000 to about 5000 reciprocal seconds.

44 (new). A method for modifying the surface properties of yarns made of synthetic fibers comprising:

feeding a mixture containing from about 55 to about 95 wt.% polyolefin polymer, from about 5 to about 45 wt.% fibril forming polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide polymers and polyester polymers, and from about 0 to about 20 wt.% polyolefin compatibilizer to a hot melt extruder to provide a substantially homogeneous molten mixture of polyolefin, fibril forming polymer and compatibilizer;

selecting a spinneret from the group consisting of a spinneret having a depth to hydraulic diameter ratio of less than about 3 to provide fibrils on an exterior surface of the filaments and a spinneret having a depth to hydraulic diameter ratio of greater than 3 to provide filaments substantially devoid of fibrils on the exterior surface of the filaments; and

forcing the molten mixture through the spinneret at a shear rate ranging from about 1000 to about 5000 reciprocal seconds.

45 (new). The method of claim 44, wherein the compatibilizer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of maleated polypropylene, maleated ethylene/propylene copolymer, maleated styrene/butadiene/styrene copolymer, maleated styrene/ethylene/butadiene/styrene copolymer, maleated ethylene/propylene/diene monomer (EPDM) copolymer and maleated ethylene/propylene-rubber (EPR)